

Regarding Docket 04-233:

I understand that Sinclair Broadcast Group has changed its plans and decided not to force its 62 local TV stations to air the anti-Kerry documentary "Stolen Honor," and that Sinclair will instead force 40 local TV stations to air what it labels a "news" program called "A POW Story: Politics, Pressure and the Media," which will include segments of "Stolen Honor." Since "Stolen Honor" is generally acknowledged to be a smear piece that makes emotionally charged, unsubstantiated accusations against a presidential candidate's military honor, and since Sinclair is airing segments of this piece less than two weeks before the presidential election, it seems obvious to me that Sinclair's plan to air these segments will STILL be a clear case of electioneering over public airwaves.

This election is already known to be a very close one, with polls continuing to hover around a 50/50 split, so it's also obvious that a national broadcast of unsubstantiated propaganda against a candidate so close to the election is consciously positioned to tip the scales against that candidate at the critical moment. It's bad enough that campaign advertising indulges in unsubstantiated attacks on the opponent. At least our Constitution protects us from our own free press feeding us such lies only moments before we exercise our most important right in this democracy.

PLEASE uphold election laws and do not allow Sinclair Broadcasting to use propaganda labeled as "news" to influence the outcome of this presidential election.

Thank you.

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